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SUPPLEMENT

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25X1A [REDACTED] note: This report has reference to changes made in the Viet Nam cabinet on 19 July 1947. The following field comment explains the mechanism of the government structure which produced these changes.

25X1X [REDACTED] comment: The most powerful and most responsible man in the Viet Nam cabinet change is the Premier. The present Premier is also the President of Viet Nam - Ho Chi Minh. When major issues are passed, the government does not have to have all the members present; that is, the non-Communist ministers and vice ministers may be present or absent. However, the Premier must submit the names of the ministers and vice ministers he has chosen to the (National) People's Assembly for approval or rejection. As Viet Nam is presently at war, it is difficult and practically impossible to call a general meeting of the Assembly. Therefore, it is replaced with all powers by the Permanent Committee which controls the government. In peace time the Assembly is dominated in a great measure by the Permanent Committee, the majority of whose members are Communists. The Permanent Committee can legally (according to the Constitution) approve the decisions taken by Ho Chi Minh, Premier and President of the Republic. However, both the Committee and the Government are under the control of Ho Chi Minh and his Tong Bo, who decided on the recent cabinet change. The role of the National Assembly is insignificant.)

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[REDACTED] note: Reference is made to the following Articles in the Viet Nam Constitution [REDACTED] Articles 36, 44, 47, 48 and 54.)

PERSONNEL OF THE CABINET

1. Bui Bang Doan, President of the Permanent Committee, was Minister of Justice in the court of Annam under ex-Emperor Bao Dai. He is known for his intelligence and above all for his memory. Although he was a high official under Bao Dai and therefore possibly pro-French, he has been known to most Indochinese as an honest mandarin who has never favored French rule. Even if he were pro-French he could do nothing on behalf of the French without the approval of the majority of the Permanent Committee.
2. Pham Ba Truc, Vice President of the Permanent Committee. [REDACTED] note: If Pham Ba Truc is the brother of Pham Van Dong, former Minister of

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Economy, then Truc is the owner of a restaurant in Hanoi called "Zephyr". He was a former political prisoner at Poulo Condor. He was released in 1937 through an amnesty of the French Government under the Front Populaire. From 1940 to the present he has owned the "Zephyr".

3. The replacement of Ton Duc Thang by a Cochinchinese [redacted] note: name unknown/ as Minister of Interior is further emphasis by the Viet Minh that Cochinchina is part of Viet Nam.
4. Ba Quang Buu has been made Minister of National Defense. This puts him more in the public eye and shelters Vo Nguyen Giap who still commands the troops.
5. Vu Dinh Tung, the head of the new Ministry of War Invalids and War Veterans, is a very capable physician. In 1941 he was awarded the "Degree of Doctors" by Decoux, although Tung is only a college graduate and not an M.D. He is a very conscientious practitioner but knows very little about politics. Nevertheless, he is at heart very anti-French. His son, Vu Dinh Tuan, was killed as a Tu Ve in the battle of Hanoi in 1946. Tuan was a former student of Lycee Albert Sarraut, a secondary school in Hanoi which admitted only pro-French Annamese or, in some cases, sons of prominent Annamese who were pro-French on the surface and who were being wooed by the French.
6. Ngo Tu Ha, Undersecretary of the Ministry of War Invalids and War Veterans, is a wealthy man who owns one of the largest printing companies in Hanoi. Because of this, he is well protected and flattered by the Viet Minh. He is about 60 years of age and very conservative in his politics and his manners. He always wears the Viet Nam national costume.
7. Dang Van Huong, new Minister without Portfolio, was a mandarin under the French. The Viet Minh might have appointed Huong to show the people that they have no grudge and do not discriminate against those who in the past collaborated with the French and/or are at present neutral.
8. Dr. Ton That Tung, Vice Minister of Public Health, is an M.D. and a surgeon. He is a technician rather than a politician. He is non-Communist, conscientious, and anti-French. However, he is very reasonable regarding the French.
9. Cu Huy Can, Vice Minister of National Economy, is an agronomist. He is a Democrat, ardent, young, and has confidence in the Viet Minh.
10. Dang Phuc Thong, Vice Minister of Public Works and Communications (now temporarily replaced by Le Ding), is an engineer who formerly worked as an official in the Railway Administration under the French. He is a technician rather than a politician.

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